Assocham's study on labour productivity

258. SHRI R. P. GOENKA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a recent study conducted by the Associated Chamber of Commerce and Industry as reported in 'The Business Standard' dated the 28th May, 2002 that "India is at the lowest (49th position) in the world in terms of labour productivity per person" and that there is an urgent need to change labour laws and also to undertake other suitable measures to improve the present situation; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN) : (a) and (b) According to a study conducted by the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry, India has been ranked lowest at 49th position in terms of labour productivity. The labour productivity of India and other countries is, however, not comparable due to significant variations in the concept used and methodologies adopted.

The planning process in India has aimed at creating conditions for improvement in labour productivity through provisions of training, upgradation of skills and improvement in tool-kits, equipment and production techniques. The resources have been accordingly directed through the plan programmes towards achieving this objective.

Review/updation of labour laws is a continuous process in order to bring them in consonance with the prevailing situation and emerging needs of the economy. In recent years, amendments to Trade Unions Act, 1926 and Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923 have been carried out.

The Second National Commission on Labour which was set up to suggest rationalization of existing laws relating to labour in the organized sector and to suggest an umbrella legislation for ensuring a minimum level of protection to the workers in the unorganized sector has since submitted its report to the Government on 29-06-2002 and the report is under process/examination.